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Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
AID-05 IO-13 COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 H-01 L-03
/076 W
----------180642Z 124259 /12
R 170930Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7937
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, OVIP, SN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY BERGLAND

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BOB BERGLAND'S JUNE 13 15 SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO SINGAPORE INCLUDED HIS PARTICIPATION IN OPENING SESSIONS OF AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE CONFERECE, COURTESY CALLS ON ACTING PRIME MINISTER GOH KENG SWEE AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LIM KIM SAN. HE ALSO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND SPOKE TO THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL. PRESS COVERAGE WAS EXTENSIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRTY-SEVEN HOUR VISIT OF SECRETARY BERGLAND TO SINGAPORE, JUNE 13-15, WAS FULL AND PRODUCTIVE. MORNING OF JUNE 14 DEVOTED TO OPENING SESSION OF AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE CONFERENCE (OPEN TO THE PRESS). SUBSEQUENTLY, SECRETART BERGLAND, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE, CONGRESSMEN BALDUS AND MCHUGH, AND ADMINISTRATOR HUME, CALLED ON MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LIM KIM SAN, ALSO PRESENT WAS SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE
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TAN ENG LIANG AND PERM SEC CHENG TONG FATT. SECRETARY BERGLAND EMPHASIZED DEPENDABILITY OF U.S. AS SUPPLIER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ALSO OUTLINED NEW DIRECTIONS FOR PL-480, AS WELL AS U.S. VIEWS REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM. IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S QUESTIONS, TAN STATED THAT HE BELIEVED U.S. COULD BEST HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY KEEPING PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS LOW AS POSSIBLE.

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TAN, WHO DID MOST OF THE TALKING BECAUSE LIM WAS SUFFERING FROM LARYNGITIS, ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WHILE SINGAPORE ITSELF REQUIRED AND WANTED NOTHING FROM U.S. EQUIVALENT OF "MARSHALL PLAN" FOR ASEAN WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND TRULY MIRROR U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE REGION. TAN DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON HIS SUGGESTION EXCEPT TO INDICATE THAT WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS A LARGE SCALE, LONG-RANGE EFFORT ON PART OF U.S. TO PUT ASEAN ECONOMIES INTO A SELF-SUSTAINING GROWTH PATTERN. TAN, ALSO IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SAID THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO HOLD FOOD STOCKS OR TO CONTRIBUTE TO COSTS OF MAINTAINING SUCH STOCKS IN PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

3. IN CALL ON ACTING PRIME MINISTER GOH, SECRETARY BERGLAND (ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND CONGRESSMEN MCHUGH AND BALDUS) COVERED ROUGHLY SAME GROUND AS IN DISCUSSION WITH LIM.
4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY DURING AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL SPEECH, SECRETARY BERGLAND UNDERSCORED DEPENDABILITY OF U.S. AS FOOD SUPPLIER AND NEW DIRECTIONS OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL POLICY, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY WORLD FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM.

5. ENGLISH, MALAY AND CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS GAVE SECRETARY BERGLAND'S REMARKS EXTENSIVE CONVERAGE. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS (SINGAPORE 2563) AT OPENING OF ATTACHE CONFERENCE ALSO RECEIVED GOOD COVERAGE. (PRESS CLIPPINGS BEING FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL.) IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON PROTECTIONISM, SECRETARY SAID USG WAS OPPOSED TO IT.
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHY SECRETARY WAS VISITING ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THAILAND (NO TIME), AND ON U.S. COMMITMENT TO REGION, AS PROVIDED BY CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH (SINGA-
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PORE 2586), WERE NOT REPORTED.

6. COMMENT: WE JUDGE VISIT TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESS, ALTHOUGH BENEFITS ESSENTIALLY INTANGIBLE. FACT THAT SECRETARY'S FIRST VISIT OUTSIDE OF NORTH AMERICA WAS TO ASIA RECEIVED EMPHASIS IN ALL OF OUR STATEMENTS AND THIS SEEMED TO IMPRESS GOS AS WELL AS PUBLIC AUDIENCES.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: VISITS, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Subject: VISIT OF SECRETARY BERGLAND
TAGS: EAGR, OVIP, SN, US, XX, (BERGLAND, BOB)
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